

REMARKS

This Third Preliminary Amendment seeks to place this application in better condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Claims

Several of the claims have been amended to correct inadvertent typographical errors, improve grammar, clarity and/or antecedent basis, and to more fully protect the Applicants' invention(s). None of the amendments were motivated by patentability considerations in view of the prior art. Moreover, no new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Specification

The Specification has been amended to correct inadvertent typographical errors, improve grammar and/or clarity. Notably, certain portions of the Specification have been amended to more closely reflect the number identifiers in certain Drawings that have also been amended. No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Drawings

The Applicants present herewith drawing replacement sheets that incorporate, among other things, the corrections requested by an Examiner in a related application (namely, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/727,742). In short, Applicants have amended the drawings to correlate the number identifiers in the text of the Specification with the number identifiers in the Drawings. In this way, the number identifiers within the Drawings more closely reflect the description of the invention(s) in the Specification. No new matter has been added.

Notably, in accordance with Rule 1.121(d), the attached amended drawings include the requisite label "Replacement Sheet" in the header of each sheet.

Applicants respectfully request that these drawings be accepted.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment.

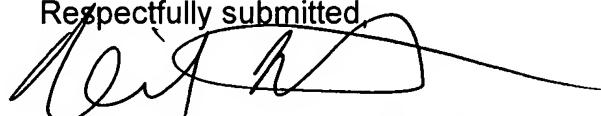
Applicants submit that the pending claims present patentable subject matter.

Accordingly, allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

It is noted that should a telephone interview expedite the prosecution of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted



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